

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

Listing of Claims

1. (Original) A wireless communication method comprising the steps of:

detecting a signal indicating no expected response or intent to continue in a received signal; and

redefining frame timing to reduce the inter-frame space when the signal is detected.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said signal is included in a header of a frame.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said signal is included in a preamble of a frame.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said signal is included in a footer of a frame.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said signal is in the form of an additional subcarrier or combination of subcarriers in a multicarrier symbol of a frame.

6. (Original) A transmitter used in a station in a wireless communication system, wherein said transmitter transmits a signal indicating no expected response or intent to continue.

7. (Original) A receiver used in a station in a wireless communication system, comprising:

means for detecting a signal indicating no expected response or intent to continue in a received signal; and

means for redefining frame timing to reduce the inter-frame space when the signal is detected.

8. (Original) A method for reducing medium access overhead in a wireless network consisting of a plurality of stations, wherein the station dynamically alters the inter-frame space by redefining interpretation of the inter-frame space, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting a signal indicating no expected response or intent to continue in a received signal; and

redefining the interpretation of the inter-frame space to contain shorter time slot when the signal is detected.

9. (Original) A method for reducing medium access overhead in a wireless network consisting of a plurality of stations, wherein the station dynamically alters the inter-frame space by redefining interpretation of the inter-frame space, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting a signal indicating no expected response or intent to continue in a received signal; and

redefining the interpretation of the inter-frame spaces to contain fewer time slots when the signal is detected.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8 or {9}, wherein the station, on detecting a signal indicating an expected response or intent to continue in a received signal, interprets:

a first idle time slot subsequent to a transmission as being reserved for signaled response/continuation;

a second idle time slot subsequent to the transmission as being reserved to gain prioritized medium access; and

a third idle time slot subsequent to the transmission as being the minimum time that a station waiting to initiate a transmission on a medium must wait before commencing backoff procedure or initiating the transmission.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8 or [9], wherein the station, on detecting a signal indicating no expected response or intent to continue in a received signal, interprets:

a first idle time slot subsequent to a transmission as being reserved to gain prioritized medium access; and

a second idle time slot subsequent to the transmission being the minimum time that a station waiting to initiate a transmission on a medium must wait before commencing backoff procedure or initiating the transmission.

12. (Original) A method for reducing medium access overhead in a wireless network consisting of a plurality of stations, wherein the station dynamically alters inter-frame space by redefining interpretation of the inter-frame space, said method comprising the steps of:

checking a medium activity indicator determining the end of activity on the medium; and

redefining the interpretation of the inter-frame space to contain shorter time-slot when the medium activity indicator is checked.

13. (Original) A method for reducing medium access overhead in a wireless network consisting of a plurality of stations, wherein the station dynamically alters inter-frame space by redefining interpretation of the inter-frame spaces, said method comprising the steps of:

checking a medium activity indicator determining the end of activity on the medium; and

redefining the interpretation of the inter-frame spaces to contain fewer time-slots when the medium activity indicator is checked.

14. (Original) A method for reducing medium access overhead in a wireless network consisting of a plurality of stations, wherein the station dynamically alters the inter-frame space by redefining the interpretation of the inter-frame space, said method comprising the steps of:

resetting a medium activity indicator when no medium activity is indicated at the instant of time that activity is expected as indicated by the medium activity indicator; and
redefining the interpretation of the inter-frame space to contain shorter time-slot when the medium activity indicator is reset.

15. (Original) A method for reducing medium access overhead in a wireless network consisting of a plurality of stations, wherein the station dynamically alters the inter-frame space by redefining the interpretation of the inter-frame spaces, said method comprising the steps of:

resetting a medium activity indicator when no medium activity is indicated at the instant of time that activity is expected as indicated by the medium activity indicator; and
redefining the interpretation of the inter-frame spaces to contain fewer time-slots when the medium activity indicator is reset.

16. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the station, on detecting a signal indicating an expected response or intent to continue in a received signal, interprets:

a first idle time slot subsequent to a transmission as being reserved for signaled response/continuation;

a second idle time slot subsequent to the transmission as being reserved to gain prioritized medium access; and

a third idle time slot subsequent to the transmission as being the minimum time that a station waiting to initiate a transmission on a medium must wait before commencing backoff procedure or initiating the transmission.

17. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the station, on detecting a signal indicating no expected response or intent to continue in a received signal, interprets:

a first idle time slot subsequent to a transmission as being reserved to gain prioritized medium access; and

a second idle time slot subsequent to the transmission being the minimum time that a station waiting to initiate a transmission on a medium must wait before commencing backoff procedure or initiating the transmission.